'A kind of stark beauty'

To the Editor:

The Van Vleet house has burned under mysterious circumstances. But even flames could not destroy the beauty of the frame of this 100 year old house. Two corners of the back of the house are intact. The fireplace rises straight up through the middle, untouched by the fire.

True, the house is a charred, black skeleton, but the strong frame refused to bow its head and fall. You can see the timbers are still straight as they stand bare now against the chilly autumn sky. One senses a kind of stark beauty here.

And one can sense and envy the kind of pride that went into the construction of this house over 100 years ago. It was a strong house, built to last and not fall and it kept its promise!

It outlasted all the catastrophes of our day including the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 or 1963. And now, unbelievably, the great frame of the Van Vleet house has outlasted its worst enemy, fire.

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